Central funds for development of Horticulture in Bihar

1648. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the central funds allocated, released and utilised for the development of horticulture in the State of Bihar during the last three years, years-wise;

(b) whether the State has achieved any remarkable targets with these funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Central Government propose to raise the allocation of funds to the State for further development of horticulture; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The year-wise details of the funds allocated, released by the Central Government and utilised for the development of horticulture by the State of Bihar during the last three financial years is as hereunder:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Release	Utilization
1993-94	243.12	196.71	00.00
1994-95	235.82	0.40	00.00
1995-96	127.79	8.88	6.51

(b) and (c) The State Government of Bihar could not achieve any significant physical targets during the last three financial years as it could not fully utilise the funds released by the Central Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No specific proposal has been received from the State so far. Higher allocations can be considered only when substantial progress is reported by the State against the releases made so far.

Preventive strategy regarding locust menace

1649. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the preventive strategy adopted by Government with regard to the locust menace in the country;

(b) whether any action plan in this regard has been prepared; and

(c) if so. the details thereof; and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Sir, the period between June to November is considered active period for locust incursion and breeding in India. The Government of India has adopted the following preventive strategy for curbing locust menace in the country :-

(i) Identification of scheduled desert area comprising two lakh sq. kms. in Gujarat, Rajasthan and part of Haryana as prone to locust incursion and breeding.

(ii) Setting up of Locust Warning Organisation (LWO) with five circle offices, one field headquarters and 23 outposts which has effective wireless system for communication.

Besides, following other steps are also regularly undertaken :-

(i) Imparting training to field functionaries and farmers of the area in locust control operations.

(ii) Special border survey are conducted along Indo-Pak border during active locust season.

(iii) Holding of Indo-Pak border meetings between Locust Officers of India and Pakistan at monthly intervals between June and November.

(iv) Establishment of Wireless linkage between Jodhpur and Karachi to exchange latest locust information during active locust season.

(v) International coordination through Food and Agriculture Organisation for regular locust information from other locust prone countries of the world.

(b) and (c) As a part of preventive strategy to curb any likely locust threat. Annual Action Plan is formulated in the beginning of each

year. Major components of such an Action Plan are as under :-

(i) Orientation of State functionaries to gear up technical system approach for any locust emergency.

(ii) Constitution of survey and control teams.

(iii) Setting up of Control Room at Circle Headquarters of Locust Warning Organisation during active locust season.

(iv) Ensuring deployment of adequate manpower, control equipment, wireless sets, availability of pesticides, etc.

Atlas of Soil Survey and Land use planning

1650. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest atlas of Soil Survey and land use planning are available for Maharashtra and Assam;

(b) if so, whether it has been put to applied use; and

(c) the benefits of this atlas to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur has prepared the Soil Atlas of Maharashtra and in case of Assam it is under preparation and will be completed during 97-98. This map can be put to use by various developmental agencies for the benefit of the farmers. The Soil Atlas helps farmers in deciding suitable crops and cropping pattern.

Scarcity of Urea in Andhra Pradesh

1651. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been scarcity of urea in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the urea shortage has affected the Kharif season;

(c) if so, whether the State Government has been pressing hard for supply of urea since 1995;

(d) if so, the urea supplied to Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96 and the total demand in that year; and

(e) the steps being taken to fulfil the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILISERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (e) The table below gives the allocation, availability and consumption of urea in Andhra Pradesh during the year 1995-96 and Kharif '96 season

('000 tonnes)

	Alloca-tion	Availa-bility	Consump-tion
1995-96	2142.34	2213.88	1828.45
Kharif96	1047.31	1026.40 i	991.38 (Estimated)

Thus the availability was adequate to support the consumption.

During 1995-96, urea demand of the State was met through augmentation of supplies from indigenous production and by undertaking movement from the non-conventional sources of supplies.

Remunerative prices to sugarcane producers

1652. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the sugarcane growers are not adequately rewarded for the quality of sugarcane they' supply to mill owners;

(b) whether it is due to weakness inherent in the present pricing policy of sugar; and

(c) if so, whether Government plan to set up "sugar pricing board" so as to strengthen the development, marketing and extension staff; thereby allowing farming community the real benefit/incentive for adopting improved sugarcane production technology?